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EAP/CM:HALevine

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March 29, 1988

CHINA: USG RESPONSE TO PRC MISSILE SALES

Q: Is the USG considering new export restrictions on China because of its missile sale to Saudi Arabia?

A: THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED THAT THE PROLIFERATION OF BALLISTIC MISSILE SYSTEMS COULD CONTRIBUTE TO A LESS STABLE AND SECURE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT. AS WE HAVE STATED BEFORE, THE SPREAD OF THESE TYPES OF SYSTEMS TO THE MIDDLE EAST IS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN THAT REGION AND WE HAVE COMMUNICATED OUR VIEWS TO BOTH CHINA AND SAUDI ARABIA. WE CONTINUE TO BE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH INTERESTED PARTIES ON THIS ISSUE. THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE PROLIFERATION OF BALLISTIC MISSILE SYSTEMS ARE BROADER THAN PARTICULAR REGIONS OR COUNTRIES AND CAN BE DEALT WITH MORE EFFECTIVELY ON A MULTILATERAL BASIS. WE INTEND TO CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR WAYS TO DEAL WITH THIS ISSUE IN A MANNER THAT WILL ENHANCE STABILITY AND THE SECURITY OF ALL COUNTRIES.

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